

Daniel David Palmer

A Tribute to the Founder of Chiropractic

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT MEMORIAL MEETING, DES MOINES, IOWA, ON
MAR. 8, 1936, BY DR. C. STERLING COOLEY, PRESIDENT OF NCA, TULSA, OKLA.

THIS IS an occasion when I need not crowd my conscience or take any liberties whatsoever with the truth in saying I am happy to be with you. I always enjoy a meeting with progressive chiropractors, but there are particular reasons why I was both honored and delighted to receive your invitation.

One is that nobody has a greater reverence than I for Daniel David Palmer, not only as the discoverer of Chiropractic, but as



Dr. C. S. Cooley.

a world figure. Another is that, although you may not have chosen the best Oklahoman for the occasion, it seems fitting that a chiropractor from my state should take part in your observance of this anniversary.

There is a close and enduring Chiropractic kinship between your state and mine. In your state, Daniel David Palmer discovered Chiropractic. In my state, he sought a haven of security after his proof of Chiropractic efficacy had brought down upon him the wrath of the organized exploiters of disease and caused him to be imprisoned, as was the Apostle Paul, for daring to bring light into a darkness which was as essential to the selfish plans of a privileged class, as darkness was to exploiters of the people in the days of Paul.

As a citizen of Oklahoma, I am justifiably proud of the fact that it can claim much of the credit for firmly establishing our science on the rock of public acceptance. From the school which the Old Master helped to found in the capital of Oklahoma were graduated many of the stalwarts who spread the new gospel of healing far and wide and whose valiant defense of Chiropractic against the furious attacks of entrenched privilege counted heavily in putting our profession where it is today. I am also justifiably proud of the fact that I studied Chiropractic under Dr. Daniel David Palmer in that school and that my father, educated as a medical physician, was another of those pioneer students.

But, ahead of us, Iowa already had sent forth courageous disciples to carry both the message and the practice of Chiropractic "into all the world." Included were chiropractors whose names most of us may have forgotten or perhaps never have heard but who are worthy of remembrance and our thanks—Seeley, (the first Chiropractic student, 1898), Davis, Smith, Brown, Simon, Jones, Story, Langworthy, Raymond, Sutton, and others, not forgetting two brilliant women—Helen DeLendrecie, and Mrs. J. C. Bowman.

Chiropractic, because it eliminates suffering and makes for happiness, has always attracted thinking women to its practice and to its defense, and we find in its earliest history many noble women who graced and glorified our beneficent science. Those and other names in Chiropractic's hall of fame give Iowa an unchallenged claim to the honor of being the birthplace and first permanent home of the greatest healing science ever developed to date.

But neither Iowa nor Oklahoma can say of Chiropractic and its discoverer: "They are mine." Daniel David Palmer and his work belong to the ages and to all the world.

The world, however, is not yet aware of their worth. To the outsider, this is merely another meeting of chiropractors. To me, every anniversary of the birth of Daniel David Palmer is a momentous occasion. I owe him a debt of gratitude no extent of homage could repay, for I was not only his student and disciple, but his patient. As a comparative invalid, I entered his school, and had it not been for his discovery, expressed through his own skilled, sensitive hands, my mortal self might long since have fallen into dust.

Should not every chiropractor—in the name of his patients at any rate—acknowledge a similar indebtedness? How many of us, and how many of those to whom we have transmitted his great health science, would be alive today if the Old Master had not lived and toiled and suffered, to the end that his fellow beings might know less of suffering and unhappiness?

For my part, I honor and revere Daniel David Palmer not only as a great discoverer, chiropractor and teacher, but as a man who was great according to standards by which the world measures greatness. And I predict that when we and our successors have won this fight—HIS fight—for freedom, justice, health and happiness, history will list him as one of the conspicuous benefactors of mankind.

That opinion is not based wholly on my personal contacts with Dr. D. D. Palmer. Time has dimmed many memories of those wonderful days in his revolutionary school of health—memories that would have made of this a more adequate tribute. But on every page of his book, "The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic," I can find evidence that his was one of the most remarkable minds of our times.

As all of you know, that book is a veritable encyclopedia—an astounding library in one volume—a Chiropractic education in itself. It shows D. D. Palmer to me as a master anatomist, an unerring pathologist, an etiologist whose sound, true, inspired findings are still either over the

heads of even the great ones among his persecutors (and ours), or so inimical to their financial aspirations and political aims, that an attitude of ridicule and scorn is the only fit disguise the persecutors can find for their ignorance and avarice. Even in such subjects as scientific endocrinology—which is still more of a brazen serpent than a science to medical endocrinologists—the Old Master today points the way.

And how simply, clearly and powerfully he wrote! How heavily he freighted common words with substance and guidance and hope! Although the poetic element is lacking, he wrote as masterfully for those who would free the slaves of disease as Lincoln did for those working for the abolition of another form of slavery. In their rare grandeur of simplicity, strength and "the truth that makes men free," his writings suggest to me that matchless work which is Christendom's epic of epics, the Bible.

Daniel David Palmer tells us in his book that he was born a few miles east of Toronto, Ontario, on March 7, 1845. He might have written a long chapter in attempting to picture for us that pioneer region, the Palmer home and the family circumstances, yet he gives us the whole story in one small, rapidly sketched word picture—this simple sentence:

"When a baby, I was cradled in a piece of hemlock bark."

That—to me—is great writing, Biblical writing, —great art telling us of a mind so great that it might have attained mastery in any humane and worthy line of human endeavor.

Mind you, I am not saying the Old Master observed the academic rules laid down for writing English. Far from it! His was a pioneering, creative mind, having little respect for inflexible academic patterns of any kind. Like Shakespeare, he bent language to his own needs and purposes, often "misusing" words, according to the purist's rulebook, but always keeping them alive and significant. And even when he departed widely from the grammarian's regulations, he always made his thought lucid and went directly to the point.

The purpose of this little excursion into the field of Dr. Palmer's writings is to support my assertion that he was truly great, in the larger sense. One can be a wonderful chiropractor, of course, without being a good writer or a revolutionary thinker, but only the great thinker can be a great writer—a thought which seems not to have occurred to some of those who persist in telling us where and why Old Master was wrong.

We are here to honor Daniel David Palmer. Then let us not be unmindful of the point that, great as Chiropractic is, he was MORE than the discoverer of Chiropractic. If it is true that "an institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man," I, for one, want the world to know that our profession did not originate in the futility of a little mind, the fervor of a faddist or the greed of a would-be exploiter of the afflicted.

My judgment of his mental caliber also re-

flects my opinion that his traducers and critics might as well save the time they spend to destroy or improve upon Chiropractic as revealed and defined by D. D. Palmer. Long after they and their work have been forgotten, HIS Chiropractic will still be the Chiropractic Gibraltar.

Like other genuinely great men, Daniel David Palmer loved and practiced simplicity in all respects. He always insisted that the science he had discovered was basically simple, and he always expounded it simply—so simply, in fact, that some latter-day chiropractors, trying to evolve something mysterious from it, have missed HIS point and gone astray. If we will study the history of the first 18 years of Chiropractic and the last 18 years of D. D. Palmer's life—actually working out problems, as he did, in the light of our present understanding—we shall all be better chiropractors.

I have said I honor the Old Master, but my respect, I assure you, stops short of the absurd. He was not a god. He was human, had his faults and acknowledged them and then—like other human beings—kept right on practicing some of them.

I also want to make it clear that, if there was a "teacher's pet" in that early-day Chiropractic school at Oklahoma City, I was absent the day the "pet" was chosen.

"Old Dad Chiro," as he often called himself, was a stern and exacting teacher. Insofar as Chiropractic is concerned, he was a genius, who KNEW that he knew his subject, and he accordingly claimed the right of genius not to argue with those who DIDN'T know. Impatience with those who are slow to grasp its revelations is a characteristic of genius, and the Old Master was no exception. He was hard, even harsh, toward me and others many times. As a consequence, he made enemies, as well as friends, and there may still be some who feel that his treatment of them, as his students, was not as sympathetic as it should have been. As for me, unpleasant memories have been lost in the long procession of years, and the good I have been able to do and have seen others do by reasons of his gift to the world impels me to remember him with ever increasing gratitude and admiration.

If any particular one of his Oklahoma City students was justified in feeling that Dr. Palmer was too rough with him, that student certainly was my father, from whose article in The Chiropractic Journal of April, 1934, I quote the following:

"Dr. Palmer was always very 'raw' and I may say uncivil to any and all members of the medical profession—at least all that I've ever known him to speak of During my school days under him, I learned to dread the approaching hour for recitation or lecture under him. He seemed to take pride in upbraiding me, seemed to blame ME for all the troubles that the medical profession at large had imposed on him—seemed to feel that I personally was the cause of his imprisonment, and was only too glad to even up scores with me personally. He took great pride in telling me that I was 'an Old Medical Fool.' I tried one time to reason with him before the class, but soon found out that it only added fuel to the fire and made him worse, rather than better, and after that experience I took the dose with the best possible grace . . .

I gladly forgave all when he placed his arm around me at the graduating supper in his home and said; "You old medical fool, after all, I am PROUD of YOU!"

The searching mind of D. D. Palmer detected many things hidden from others. As an instance of his unusual faculty of mind in that respect, I quote this paragraph from the same article; written by my father:

"I called on him, in his new office, to obtain information as to what Chiropractic was—what it was his school was to teach. I did not intend for him ever to know my real identity, or for him ever to know that I had studied medicine, but he seemed to sense the truth as soon as I met him and within the first few minutes made me acknowledge the truth. And then our troubles began."

It is not strange that Dr. Daniel David Palmer made enemies and that his doctrine incurred and still incurs the anger of entrenched stupidity and selfishness. We often speak of the world's rapid progress, as if the world were eagerly pushing forward. It ISN'T. It is being PULLED forward by a small minority—the dreamers, prophets, inventors, discoverers.

The world always has been and still is willing to admit that everything worth doing has been done—that everything is perfectly satisfactory as it is—that further progress, not only is impossible, but would be unnecessary, undesirable and dangerous if it could be achieved. What the world, as a whole, calls thinking, is merely a mental clinging to husks from the past—a repetition of thoughts, ideas and opinions to which it has been able to adjust itself without effort or shock.

Mankind, in the mass, is mentally drowsy, preferring to doze through the enigma of its days—and woe to the disturber who breaks its stupor by shouting strange, disquieting truth into its ears! It wishes to be let alone by such loud, insistent fellows as Isaiah, Galileo, Copernicus, Columbus, Harvey, Stephenson, Nietzsche, Lister and PALMER. The entire path of human progress, from our day all the way back into the darkness of history's beginning, is made gruesome by the cross, the gallows, the dungeon and the rack.

Enlightenment not only is painful to the world's half-opened eyes, but almost invariably causes an influential group or faction to fear that its special privileges and advantages are to be destroyed. The Old Master, in his delving, literally planted dynamite under the temple of a powerful, prosperous cult, which has been deepening the spell of its black magic upon mankind for thousands of years.

Make sick people well without medicine, mysticism or mutilation? The very idea marked the man as a dangerous crank. The furor his simple, humane, constructive discovery evoked brings to mind the historic offending of another powerful cult of darkness, whose leaders foolishly believed they had extinguished the Light of Truth when they incited the rabble to the cruel but futile crime of the cross on that hill which was called Golgotha.

Daniel David Palmer was no exception to the ancient rule that pioneers of thought must pay a penalty, especially if their ideas threaten the fortunes of those who prey on ignorance and prosper through the misfortunes of their fellow men. Few of us realize what the Old Master endured through the 12 or 15 years beginning in 1895 in order that we might enjoy Chiropractic as it is today. When we are tempted to think of our professional troubles as almost too grievous to be withstood, let us remember the galling burdens borne for us by Chiropractic's own Man of Sorrows.

Of all the indignities heaped upon him, the most cruel and contemptible, in my estimation, were the ridicule and ingratitude from within Chiropractic ranks and the efforts made—and yet being made—to deprive him of the honor due a discoverer. We still have with us the envious, the greedy and the dishonest who are willing to appropriate Daniel David Palmer's discovery as their own. Let me cite a few of their slurs, which are an old story to all of you:

"D. D. Palmer was not the first to identify spinal sub-luxations as causes of disease."

"D. D. Palmer was not the first to adjust spinal sub-luxations as a means of correcting causes of disease."

"D. D. Palmer discovered Chiropractic by accident, his first adjustment was 'crude' and he did not understand either the adjustment or the patient's recovery until the matter had been studied and explained to him by smarter men"—(no doubt by brilliant but timid gentlemen who had known all about Chiropractic all the time but had been too modest to say anything about it.)

It is strange to me that those who harp on these charges have not been silenced by the Old Master's frank and emphatic assertion that he did not pretend to have discovered the fact that sub-luxations cause disease, or to have been the first to replace sub-luxated vertebrae as a therapeutic measure. I quote as follows from page 11 of his book, the emphasis on certain words being my own:

"The basic principle, and the principles of Chiropractic which have been developed from it, ARE NOT NEW. They are as old as the vertebrata. I have, both in print and by word of mouth, REPEATEDLY stated, AND NOW MOST EMPHATICALLY REPEAT THE STATEMENT, that I am NOT the first person to replace subluxated vertebrae, for this art has been practiced for thousands of years. I claim, however, to be the first to replace displaced vertebrae BY USING THE SPINOUS AND TRANSVERSE PROCESSES AS LEVERS wherewith to rack subluxated vertebrae into normal position, and FROM THIS BASIC FACT TO CREATE A SCIENCE which is destined to revolutionize the theory and practice of the healing art."

That book, to which I have already paid my respects, is in itself a sufficient answer to the charge that Daniel David Palmer was not the first to set forth, as a science, the basic principles of Chiropractic, and explain their application to the treatment of all forms of disease. It is abundant and indisputable evidence that, in the brief space of 18 years, he developed his new-old health system into a complete and beautifully rounded-out science, elucidating its art and philosophy in detail.

Had anybody else written such an exposition of Chiropractic prior to 1910? Why not? Has anybody written it since? And again, why not?

Who else that is living, or has lived, COULD have written Daniel David Palmer's great Chiropractic textbook?

Who else, in his time or ours, could not only have answered, but ANTICIPATED, every imaginable question that might be asked about Chiropractic and its application in every imaginable situation?

His new science HAS revolutionized the healing art in a short time and in a degree which would have been impossible to anything except a science which was not only revolutionary, but accurate and dependable. If you will compare the texts of all health schools of today with their texts of 1895, you will see in all of them the influence of Daniel David Palmer. Regardless of what has been done since, or who has done it, when the Old Master, on September 18, 1895, racked back into normal position Harvey Lillard's fourth dorsal vertebra—almost instantaneously restoring hearing to ears that had been stone deaf for 17 years—he released a healing force which has virtually girdled and enveloped the globe.

What other mind—what other system—has brought relief, health and happiness to so many suffering and unhappy mortals? What else holds greater promise for the future?

Honor to whom honor is due! The mind of Daniel David Palmer has revealed to us a truth which can profoundly affect the welfare of the entire human race. Let us keep ourselves worthy of that great gift and resolve to defend it, without fear or compromise, regardless of the strength of forces seeking its destruction.

Not that it matters a great deal to me, but I should like to ask a question or two bearing on whether the discovery of Chiropractic was an accident. If the Old Master was merely groping his way along the therapeutic path, without any clear idea of what he was doing, will the wise-aces please tell me how in the world he happened to see a possible connection between Harvey Lillard's deafness and that lump on Lillard's back? And unless he had something very much like Chiropractic in mind, why did he get the idea that Lillard's condition might be improved by the reduction of that lump? I say that, so far as deafness was concerned—especially in those days—that spinal lump would have had no pathological or therapeutical significance whatever except to a mind in which the truth of Chiropractic already had come to rest.

As to whether that first Chiropractic adjustment was crude, I can imagine no better comment than was made by the Old Master himself when he said that, whether it was crude or not, nobody else ever had equaled it. I certainly wish I could work that marvelous "crudity" into every adjustment I give.

There are several ways of replacing subluxated vertebrae. The osteopaths do it—in time—by mixing a bit of Chiropractic science with a large proportion of massage and a series of gymnastic exhibitions.

Even the medics do it—sometimes—with the aid of steel, plaster, leather, buckles, girders, laces and such, and probably after cutting away the parts manifesting the effects of the subluxation. If you want to appreciate the revolutionary nature and the value of the discovery made by Daniel David Palmer in that little Davenport office on September 18, 1895, just watch the learned, highly educated medical profession—the repository of all worth-while therapeutic lore—the court of last resort in health matters—just watch those profound scientists first trying to find the cause of one of those obstinate lumps on the back and then, if they do identify it by chance, the beautiful, simple, scientific way they go about reducing it. Nature sometimes comes to the rescue, in some way—provided the patient survives the weeks or months they force him to endure the paralyzing embrace of a collection of contraptions resembling the beginning of a federal dam project.

And, in the face of such crude and clumsy quackery, the leaders of that bigoted, benighted cult have the nerve to call us a cult and our science quackery! How much longer will a supposedly enlightened nation submit to their fraudulent assumptions of knowledge and their seizures of power?

The simplest, quickest, most logical way to replace subluxated vertebrae is "by using the spinous and transverse processes as levers to rack the subluxated vertebrae into normal position." THAT, my friends, is Chiropractic—and it stands out from all other methods of spinal manipulation as the fiery crystal carbon of the diamond stands out from the carbon of a coal pile. THAT is what Daniel David Palmer discovered on September 18, 1895.

What had been done in the matter of spinal manipulation before his time, and what has been done since, cannot alter the fact that he dug a diamond of pure science out of the rubbish heap of tradition and legend and theory.

Marconi was not the discoverer of radio waves. The phenomenon of oscillating electromagnetic radiation was discovered and experimented with extensively by Hertz, but Marconi invented and devised an application of the Hertzian waves which gave us RADIO. Shall we deny that honor to Marconi or haggle over whether he or Hertz invented wireless communication?

As Marconi's application of that principle has almost annihilated earthly distances and brought a new era to the world, so has Daniel David Palmer's application of the correct principle of vertebral adjusting almost annihilated antique healing practices born of superstition and nurtured by greed. You know and I know that, if it had not been for that experience of Daniel David Palmer on September 18, 1895, we would not be here today as a respected professional class, the exact and efficacious science of Chiropractic might still lie buried in the rubbish of myth and error and many of us, as well as thousands to whom we have applied the Old Master's method

of replacing displaced vertebrae, by using the spinous and transverse processes as levers, would long ago have come to untimely ends.

If we deny honor to Daniel David Palmer, we dishonor ourselves, for every sincere chiropractor, from the humblest "country doctor" to the most renowned city practitioner, is an essential part of his discovery and, by reason of helping to make that discovery of practical value to the world, is entitled to share in his renown and esteem. In the sense that we must keep it uncontaminated, undamaged and available to suffering mankind, his discovery is OURS, from the humblest of us to the highest. Let no earnest chiropractor, however modest or obscure, think of himself as unimportant or as having no part in the great Chiropractic scheme of things. Every one of us is not merely a custodian, but a part owner of one of the most precious gifts ever conferred upon the race. Remember that, with the influence of Daniel David Palmer on the future of humanity will be blended YOUR influence, too. Remembering that, let us fight the good fight, keep the faith with him and with mankind and be not ashamed to say that we helped to fashion the crown of gratitude and honor the world some day will reverently place in the Old Master's niche in the Hall of Benefactors and Bearers of the Light.

In leaving this phase of my subject, I want to give you, in part, that gem written by Theodore McManus, "The Penalty of Leadership."

"When a man's work becomes a standard for the whole world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work is merely mediocre, he will be left severely alone. If he achieves a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging."

"Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongues at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write or paint or play or sing or build, no one will strive to surpass or slander you unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius. Long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry that it cannot be done."

"Spiteful little voices in the domain of art were raised against our own Whistler as a mountebank long after the big world had acclaimed him its greatest artistic genius. Multitudes flocked to Bayreuth to worship at the musical shrine of Wagner, while the little group he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all. The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river bank to see his boat steam by."

"The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or excel, the follower seeks to depreciate or destroy—but only confirms once more the superiority of that which he strives to supplant."

"There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the human passions—envy, greed, ambition and the desire to surpass. And it all avails nothing. If the leader truly leads, he remains—the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed and each holds his laurels through the ages. That which is good makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live—LIVES."

And so, deserving to live, Daniel David Palmer's Chiropractic WILL live. This meeting, and every other meeting like it, testify that his discovery is appreciated and sufficiently understood by enough intelligent, devoted, courageous followers of the Old Master to protect it from assaults from without and disintegration within the ranks.

FOR APRIL, 1936.

It seems to me that our experiences of the last few years have made us, as a profession, realize our responsibilities more clearly than ever. I have every confidence that Daniel David Palmer's admonition to his disciples to protect and preserve the true Chiropractic will be respected.

There are and will continue to be inevitable differences of interpretation and application, but so long as we follow the general basic principles of the science he bequeathed to us, Chiropractic will be enriched, rather than weakened, by those differences.

A gifted man receives an inspiration and composes a masterpiece of music. He writes it into manuscript in minute detail, using every known device to put the music into such an exact form that it can be played correctly by any proficient musician.

Now, the musical artist has a profound respect for the composer's genius, and if that manuscript is shown, in turn, to twelve gifted pianists, each will say, in effect:

"This is a masterpiece. I could not have written it, nor can I improve upon it, but I believe I can play it so that the composer would approve and enjoy my interpretation."

The twelve great pianists play the composition, following one another at the same piano; although they respect the composer's genius and follow his manuscript as precisely as possible, no two of them play that composition exactly alike, nor will any one of them play it exactly as the composer heard it in his moments of inspiration. Yet throughout the twelve interpretations, it remains the same composition—not changed or degraded, but made more interesting and beautiful by the influence of twelve different artistic personalities.

In like manner, we can enrich Chiropractic through our own personalities. We can increase its scope, develop its possibilities, strengthen it in every way, and still keep it Daniel David Palmer's true, proved, revealed Chiropractic. And, if through devotion to his teachings and to the common good, we evolve a healing science even greater than Chiropractic, it need occasion no surprise, for that very development was confidently foretold by our great understanding, far-seeing Old Master, whom puny minds have tried in vain to rob of his rightful rank as a pioneer of thought, to discredit as a scientist and to displace as a teacher.

Again I refer you to his amazing book, the "Bible" of Chiropractic, and read the following from page 15:

"As a means of relieving suffering and disease, Allopathy, Homeopathy, Osteopathy and now Chiropractic, have each in turn, improved upon its predecessor. The latter, of all the others, is entitled to the seat of honor and distinction. But, as soon as the human mind is capable of absorbing a still more refined and advanced method and human aspiration demands it, IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING, AND I HOPE TO BE THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH IT WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE DENIZENS OF THE EARTH. A few years ago, it was thought impossible to send a telegram without using a stretched wire from post to post to convey it from one point to another. Today, by proper adjusting, messages are sent thousands of miles over land and sea without the need of posts or wires. Is it too much to expect a similar development, along Chiropractic lines, to be awaiting our beck and call?"

In that startling comment we see Daniel David Palmer as the prophet, never satisfied with what has been or is being done—seeking new worlds to conquer—speeding ahead of us down the veiled ways along which the years will come from that dark mystery we call the future—a great, inspired mind, spurning eternal repose—refusing to die—living, leading, planning for and directing us and our successors today and tomorrow and in distant days when “a still more refined, advanced method” shall have displaced or absorbed what we now think of as the ultimate in therapeutic principles.

Friends, we all know Dr. D. D. Palmer believed in something like what we call spiritism. He tells us frankly in his book that he received Chiropractic as a revelation from Dr. Jim Atkinson who had lived in Davenport many years before Dr. Palmer's time. Dr. Atkinson, we are told, had tried to introduce Chiropractic in his practice, but found the public not then ready to accept it.

We may or may not believe such a thing possible, but whatever our views may be, they are merely belief. We do not KNOW that such a revelation is impossible. In fact, we CANNOT know. But, since I have dwelt at length on his genius, his mental penetration, grasp and clarity, and have numbered him among the great, it would ill befit me to contend that, on the one point of revelation and spiritual communication, the Old Master was deluded or unbalanced. Therefore, I have prepared this address with the thought in mind that, for aught I know to the contrary, he is standing beside me, hearing every word I say.

And so, as if speaking face to face to him, as well as to you whom I see, I express my confident belief that Daniel David Palmer's gift to humanity is safely and permanently enshrined at last. That great science is no longer battered by waves of chance and torn by winds of envy, strife and persecution. It has found a haven in the lee of the sheltering rock of the National Chiropractic Association.

Chiropractic's first truly strong, truly progressive, truly democratic professional organization accepts in toto and without question the healing science, art and philosophy expounded by Dr. Daniel David Palmer. It also accepts unhesitatingly the challenge of those who would mutilate, suppress or destroy that science, or distort the Old Master's philosophy. Against the exploiter, the medical monopolist and the political enemy of public health and human happiness; the National Chiropractic Association presents a battlefield unparalleled in Chiropractic history.

It takes the stand that the Knights of the Knife and the Needle have ridden rough-shod long enough over Chiropractic and the people. It believes the time has come to display some of the Old Master's dogged determination in resisting further inroads on our rights. It proposes to reclaim and salvage the principles of American liberty and to halt the dissemination of principles and practices which perpetuate disease for profit.

The NCA not only SAYS something is wrong in our national health picture, but is DOING SOME-

THING about it. It is the strongest defense of true Chiropractic yet evolved, because it is a concentration of power and yet has no one member—official or dignitary—whose voting power outweighs that of the humblest adherent. It is true democracy applied to Chiropractic. It has no “elect of heaven,” no inner circle of mysteries, no secrets, nothing to conceal from either the membership or the public. There are no “stuffed shirt” type executives in its official family, and it's the poorest place in the world to cultivate a pompous personality. I happen to be its president, but there isn't an NCA member in this audience—or anywhere else in the world—who isn't just as important to the Association as I am.

If you are a sincere chiropractor, believing in and practicing scientific Chiropractic, ready to defend it at all costs and opposed to making deals or signing truces of any sort with any gang of political schemers or inferior therapists—particularly the allopathic monopolists—you are qualified for NCA membership.

The National Chiropractic Association does not tell a member he MUST do this or that. It DOES tell his enemies what they must not—and shall not—do to HIM. And any member who has had to call upon the Association for protection against a “trumped up” malpractice action can testify that his enemies really “GET TOLD.”

Thus making Chiropractic safe for the chiropractor, giving it dignity and respect in the eyes of the public and defending the true, exact science passed on to us by the Old Master, the National Chiropractic Association—a real democracy in which the last is as good as the first and the first as the last—shines on the horizon, beyond which lie the weaknesses and errors of our past, as a great and enduring memorial to him who carried first the Chiropractic cross.

* * *

In the histories of men who opposed the white light of truth to the darkness of ignorance and tradition, we find strange, vivid parallels.

To Judean peasants, in the stable of an inn, a babe is born and cradled in a manger.

He grows to manhood, receives a vision, becomes a healer, a teacher, a defender of the downtrodden. He brings health to the stricken, new hope to the world. But, save for a few devoted followers, he is despised and rejected of men. And because His doctrine, accepted by the people, would mean the end of privileges enjoyed by “the princes of this world,” those whose selfish security he threatens have him put to death on the cross, as a disturber of an order in which everything is good enough to be left just as it is, and in which everything worth doing has been done.

Before taking leave of His disciples, that Great One, whose thought already has sounded the uttermost depths of countless centuries to come, instructs them to carry His message “to all the world” and “to every creature,” and says:

“The things that I do, ye shall do; and greater things than these shall ye do.” [Cont. on page 36]

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BY DR. FRE

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DANIEL DAVID PALMER

(Continued from page 10)

And, departing, he gives them this promise:
"I will not leave you comfortless."

But the world is not ready for His gift, and after his disciples pass, it falls to careless hands. Again dark mists of ignorance descend. The healing touch is lost. For generation after generation there is a deepening of the darkness, in which inspired ones vainly cry out their messages and die the martyr's death. In the slow march of eighteen shadowy centuries no other great healer appears, and superstition rules the destinies of the afflicted. Man accepts disease as the will of deity and fearfully pays tribute to the mystic with the charm, the incantation, the concoction of putridity and poison and the magic potion brewed in the dark of the moon from animal offal and the human skull.

And then—to humble parents, in a lonely home on the Canadian frontier, a babe is born—and "cradled in a piece of hemlock bark."

He grows to manhood, receives a vision, becomes a healer, a teacher, the author of a new doctrine of human betterment and happiness. He, too, except for a receptive few, is despised and rejected of men, is reviled and persecuted by the therapeutic "princes of this world," who see in his "new-old doctrine" the doom of their tyranny.

Through eighteen dismal centuries the world has cried for the healing touch and waited his coming, yet when he comes, "his own receive him not." His mission and motives are maligned and his good deeds distorted into offenses against the brazen serpent of medical mummery. But he remains steadfast to his vision and his principles. For our sake he labors on, enduring the sting of ridicule and the lash of persecution, the treachery and ingratitude of many who profess to be his followers.

His passing, too, is tragic and untimely, but he, too, has seen far down the heavily veiled vista of unmeasured time, for he leaves to us, not only a complete science of that revolutionary healing touch, but this astounding challenge to our thought:

Chiropractic holds the seat of honor and distinction among the therapies, "but as soon as the human mind is capable of absorbing a still more refined and advanced method, and human aspiration demands it, it will be forthcoming—and I hope to be the medium through which it will be delivered to the denizens of this earth."

And so is repeated the tradition that, to the master mind, eternity means opportunity.

I offer to you, Old Master—my Physician and Preceptor—the personal tribute of sincere belief. Whether it be tomorrow or ages hence, I believe your prophecy, perhaps your wish, will be fulfilled. And I am not ashamed to say that, while I strive to the utmost to do good with the marvelous science you bequeathed to us, I think it not absurd to listen for your message, through which that Greater Therapy will be revealed.

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